

Fay Anderson  
Saratoga, Wyo.

The experience of a county superintendent of schools  
in 1896.

Oct 24 - 1928

PLATTE VALLEY LYRE

July, 16, 1896.

A PLEASANT TRIP.

700 words  
Early Day Trip  
OK

At a very early hour on Monday the sixth of July, we, in company with our sisters, Roberta and Cara, harnessed our critter and had farewell to Saratoga, speeding away in the direction of grand old Elk Mountain. Long before noon we reached the pretty mountain ranch of Mrs. Sophia Oberg, we halted several hours for rest and refreshment. Here we saw a fine garden, in which the pestiferous gopher had made sad havoc, but which still gave promise of a good yield.

Continuing our journey we entered the Pass through the Medicine Bow mountains, finding the road passable, though somewhat dangerous from washouts. Saw the remains of the McCullough drug stock scattered where the wagons had upset several weeks ago. Gathered bunches of the beautiful wild columbine which abounds in great profusion all over the timbered mountain sides. The picturesque scenery of the Pass was most highly enjoyed and we were loathed to leave it when the time came, but business before pleasure---

We learned by practical experience that fences, new ones, are occasionally built in Wyoming, and the construction of some miles of adjunct to settlement obliged us to spend Monday night at the Hotel Poolman at the river crossing. In other words, we lost our way and arriving at the Hotel at about eight O'clock concluded not to hunt roads any more until morning. The Hotel is a comfortable, well conducted establishment, a fine grove, dancing pavilion, etc., and we considered ourselves fortunate indeed.

On Tuesday we visited the school in district No.5 in charge of Miss Lillian J. Bruning, remaining all day at the school house. After school we drove to the hospitable home of Niels Hanson, where we received a cordial welcome always accorded by Mr. and Mrs. Hanson to friends. The "latch string is always out" here in earnest and we look foreward eagerly to our yearly visit.

Wednesday, we, with Roberta, drove about four miles to the school building in District No.11 where we found Miss Eva J. Cantlin teaching a pleasant little school. After a day at this piont we drove a couple of miles to the delightful home of County Commissioner Sederlin, where we had been invited to visit. Necessity cut our sojourn short, as usual, and we could spend but one night with these good friends, but it goes without saying that we made the most of our time.

Early Thursday we struck out across country, six or seven miles to the home of that typical pioneer, Mike Quealey, where is located the school house of District No.30. Miss Maggie Sullivan is teaching here, on the site of the historical old Fort Halleck and within a few miles of the spot where Deputies Widdowfield and Vincent meet death at the hands of train robbers eighteen years ago when Wyoming was truly a wild and wooly state.

At five o'clock the same day we said farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Quealey, who had treated us as though we were royalties and drove home, ten miles to Mr. Hanson's. Ehere we spent Thursday night and Friday morning with both sisters, drove some nine miles to Widdowfield or District No.21, where Prof. L. S. Trapp is in charge. We found him rusticating in earnest and from the few experiences, fish stories, hunting exploits etc., of which we heard, we judge his

history of his vacation school would fill a big volume. It took us some time to find out just what species of game had fallen under his unerring shot, but we know now, and will just whisper it to you, dear reader, it was gophers, just gophers--but don't give it away.

After a day spent at the school house Roberta and Cara drove back to our headquarters at Mr. Hanson's while we tried to walk two miles to the home of Mr. Joseph Widdowfield. A heavy rain made better time than we, but we were fortunate enough to get under shelter at the home of Wm. Richardson without the expected "ducking" but just damp enough to appreciate a fire. After the storm and a tempting supper we were taken to Mr. Widdowfield's in a Wagon--beats walking any day--. Here on Saturday Prof. Trapp and ourself put in many weary hours preparing a program for the coming institute notwithstanding the invitation held out by a consignment of trout flies and hooks and the winding river. The temptation was hard to resist but the institute program had to be completed and we trust the teachers of the county will appreciate our sacrifice in their behalf.

Saturday afternoon brought Cara back to us and on Saturday evening the entire party attended a dance at Schoen's beautiful grove below the crossing. On Monday we leave for Rockdale to visit our last school in Carbon County. G. M. H.

Fay Anderson,  
Saratoga, Wyo.

Feb., 21, 1941.

## CARBON COUNTY.

(From History of Wyoming, Bartlett.)

The first Territorial Legislature of Wyoming passed an act, to take effect on January 1, 1870, Section 1 of which provided; "That all that portion of Wyoming Territory described as follows, be and is hereby organized into a county by the name of Carbon, to wit: Commencing at a point one-half mile east of Como Station on the Union Pacific Railroad and running thence due north to the forty-fifth parallel of north latitude; thence west along said parallel to the line of  $107^{\circ} 30'$  west longitude; thence south along the eastern boundary of Carter (Sweetwater) County, namely the line of  $107^{\circ} 30'$  west longitude to the forty-first parallel of north latitude, thence east along said parallel to a point due south of the point of the beginning; thence north to the place of beginning."

As thus created, the county contained all that part of Carbon west of the line dividing ranges 79 and 80 west, except that portion lying west of the line  $107^{\circ} 30'$  west longitude; the western three-fourths of Natrona County; the greater part of Johnson and Sheridan; and a strip about eighteen miles wide across the east side of Big-Horn and Washakie counties. The boundaries were adjusted by subsequent legislation so that parts of Albany and Sweetwater were added to Carbon. On the north Carbon is bounded by Natrona County; on the east by Albany County; on the south by the state of Colorado; and on the west by Sweetwater County.

The act of creating the county provided for its organization by the appointment of the following officers; A.B. Donnelly, E.V. Upton, and Robert Foote, commissioners, George Doyle, shefff; William Hunter, probate judge and ex-officio justice of the peace; Thomas J. Williams, county clerk and register of deeds; H.C. Hall, superintendent of public

Charles E. Blydenburgh, Jr.  
Platte River Empire District,  
Rawlins, Carbon County, Wyoming.

### CARBON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The government of Carbon county as a whole is basically the same as that of the other twenty-two counties of the State of Wyoming, the commission form of government being exercised. This county has three commissioners, one of which, being selected by the group, acts as chairman of the board, usually for a period of two years. Two of the commissioners are elected at a regular general election for a period of two years and the third is elected for a four-year term. The board of commissioners for the county meets once each month, for a period long enough to transact the monthly county business (usually about three days) the date of meeting being the first Tuesday in each month.

Other officers of the county include the county and prosecuting attorney (two year term); the sheriff, treasurer, county clerk, assessor and clerk of district court, all of whom are elected for a period of two years and all of which jobs are political. The County Superintendent of Schools is also elected for a two year term but this position is non-partisan.

Rawlins, as the county seat, is the center of all court work and procedure which takes place in the county court house. Carbon county is in the Second Judicial district.

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Consultation:  
Gus Larson, Carbon County Commissioner  
Gene McCarthy, Carbon County Commissioner  
Frank Schilts, Carbon County Commissioner.

Checked for accuracy by: Frank Schilte and Eugene McCarthy, County Commissioner  
Rawlins, Carbon County, Wyoming

schools; Robert Foot, justice of the peace for the Fort Halleck Precinct, and a Mr. Hinton, justice of the peace for the Carbon Precinct. The county seat was located at Rawlins Springs "until removed according to law."

Among the early settlers of Carbon was Perry L. Smith, who came to Rawlins Springs in 1868. He was elected county commissioner at the first election after the county was organized and was twice reelected, serving three consecutive terms; was elected county clerk in 1874; served in the legislative sessions of 1879 and 1881, and was territorial auditor during Governor Hale's administration.

James France, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Wyoming in 1868, when he was about thirty years of age. In 1869 he took charge of a branch store opened by H.C. Hall & Company at Rawlins, and from that time until his death he was identified with the history of Carbon County. From 1871 to 1885 he was postmaster at Rawlins and served several terms as county commissioner. In 1882 he engaged in the banking business, with which he was connected for the remainder of his life.

John C. Dyer, discoverer of the mineral paint deposits at Rawlins, was born in Washington D.C., in 1845. He came to Cheyenne in 1867 and followed the Union Pacific to Rawlins. There he became associated with George Ferris, who discovered the first mine in the "Ferris District", and was active in developing the mineral deposits in all parts of Carbon County.

Isaac C. Miller was born in Denmark in 1844 and came to America soon after reaching his majority. In 1866 he located in Omaha, but after a short time removed to North Platte. He came to Rawlins in 1870 and the next year engaged in mining at Hahn's Peak. After about two years he began raising cattle, in which line he became one of the most prominent in the country. Mr. Miller was sheriff of the county from 1880 to 1884 and in 1890

he was the democratic candidate for state treasurer at the first election after Wyoming was admitted into the Union.

According to Rand & McNally's Atlas, the area of Carbon County is 8,029 square miles. The surface is broken by mountain ranges, between which are rolling plains and fertile valleys, the altitude varying from 5,000 to 12,000 feet. In the north are the Ferris and Seminoe Mountains, north-east of which is the Shirley Basin. In the south-east are the Medicine Bow Mountains, and the Sierra Madre range is in the southwestern part. Between the last two named ranges flows the Platte River with its numerous small tributaries, forming one of the best stockraising districts of the state. In 1910 there were 52,600 cattle, 380,000 sheep, and 10,450 horses in the county, valued at over three million dollars.

Next in importance to the live stock interests comes the mining industry. The name "Carbon" was given to the county on account of its immense coal beds. Some of the most productive coal mines in the state are operated by the Union Pacific Railroad Company near the Town of Hanna. The output of the Carbon County coal mines in 1910 was nearly six hundred thousand tons and since then it has been greatly increased. The county also has rich oil fields, copper, iron and gold deposits. In the Ferris, Seminoe and Shirley ranges, in the northern part, the amount of iron ore has been estimated as high as two hundred and fifty million tons. Near Encampment, in the southern part, the Rudefeh copper mines were discovered by a sheep herder and after being only partially developed were sold for a million dollars. It was then capitalized by an eastern company for \$10,000,000 and the smelting works were erected. Other valuable mines in the Encampment District are the Rambler, Battle and Copperton.

The Saratoga Hot Springs, with a temperature of 135° Fahrenheit, are located in the Platte valley. The water of these springs contains

sulphur, salines and calcareous salts, closely resembling the famous European springs at Carlsbad, Marienbad and Aix la Chapelle. Their curative properties in certain diseases have been demonstrated, and the location of the springs, surrounded as they are by mountains, in a valley where the streams abound in trout, is an ideal place for a health resort.

In 1915 the population of Carbon County, as given by the state census, was 8,412 and in 1917 the assessed valuation of property was \$16,622,257. It is the sixth county in the state in population and wealth. The main line of the Union Pacific Railroad crosses the county east and west a little north of the center, and the Saratoga and Encampment Railroad runs from Encampment to Walcott, where it forms a junction with the Union Pacific, hence the transportation facilities of Carbon are above the average of the Wyoming counties.



(From the Wyoming Eagle, July 22, 1941.)

# BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS AND GREAT PLAINS SEEN.

\*\*\*\*\* A popular side route from Laramie is the highway through Snowy Range. This road leads through verdant pastures that give way to forested foothills and finally pretty lakes and mountain streams dwarfed by cloud-shrouded peaks on which snow lies in large drifts throughout the year.

The Snowy Range highway rejoins the Lincoln route by way of Saratoga, with its hot springs state park, and Walcott.

From Medicine Bow directly along highway 30 the route passes through two famous cow towns, Rock River and Medicine Bow, steeped in the early history of the area and the site of a majority of the scenes in Owen Wister's famous novel "The Virginian."

In the town of Medicine Bow a monument has been erected to Wister and near it stands the old log cabin in which lived the school teacher of his story.

At Como Bluff, near Medicine Bow, is a museum filled with fossils and relics of other ages. The largest dinosaur graveyard in the world lies near Como Bluff and is easily accessible by auto.

Further west is Hanna, a large coal mining center, and Parco, center of vast oil fields. Between Walcott and Parco the highway crosses the North Platte river which to the north are the reclamation projects, Pathfinder reservoir, Alcova dam and Seminoe dam.

Rawlins, six miles west of Parco, is the county seat of Carbon county and the center of extensive sheep and cattle raising

areas. Here is located the Wyoming state penitentiary.

West of Rawlins at Creston the Lincoln highway tops the continental divide at an elevation of 7,178 feet. The area is not mountainous and the crossing is the rarest in the continent. Odd rock formations make the trip from there through Wamsutter and Point of Rocks interesting.

Near Point of Rocks are the remains of the old Almond stage station, a relay point for the Overland trail stages in 1862.

In one of the richest coal mining areas of the nation, Superior is only a few miles from the highway. Winton, Dines, Quealy and Reliance are other small coal mining towns in the vicinity which is centered around Rock Springs, one of the largest towns of Wyoming.

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Rawlins, Carbon County, Wyoming.

1050 words.

### CARBON COUNTY SIGHTS FOR TOURISTS

To the average tourist, whether he be traveling by rail or motor, as he passes through Carbon county via the east and west route, it appears that there is nothing but barren wastes of sage brush, desert grasses, or wind-swept spaces that seem to reach into infinity, with nothing alluring at a far distant horizon except more of this vastness of nothing. Occasionally he sees a band of grazing sheep, a lone cowboy, a desert hovel which marks the first stages of a homestead improvement; but for scenic interest, forests, streams, mountains, flowers, vast and huge panoramic grandeurs of jagged peaks he sees nothing and consequently knows nothing of the beautiful scenery which lies beyond.

It might be fitting to mention that the main highways basically follow the railroads and that the railroads were laid out in the beginning along the route followed by early emigration, which was naturally the most accessible route; in this section mountains were avoided wherever possible. The stretches of sagebrush desert land which meet the eye on either side of the Lincoln highway or the Union Pacific railroad through Carbon county and adjoining counties, as a rule, except for wonderment, do not appeal to the vacationist for stop-over purposes.

Choosing Rawlins, the county seat of Carbon county, as a hub or starting place, a tourist may spend a very enjoyable vacation during the summer months, at points of scenic interest, in mountainous regions, with cool nights and mild days within short radii of Rawlins, and via good roads.

The nearest and most accessible spot, to start with, where one may leave the main artery of travel and place himself within the cloistered

haunts of Nature's beauty, is Bridger's Peak. This peak, a little over 11,000 feet in height, is situated approximately seventy-six miles southeast of Rawlins, and may be reached from Rawlins by two routes. Some years, however, it is after the Fourth of July before a person may have access to this district; some years the early part of June. It depends upon the amount of snowfall during the winter.

Start from Rawlins and travel east on the Lincoln highway, to take the route via the Platte River valley, until a point is reached about twenty-one miles from Rawlins where the Rocky Mountain highway joins this main artery. Turn to the right on a new road and travel twenty miles more until the town of Saratoga is reached, on the Platte River, famed for its medicinal hot springs and as a summer resort with special attractions in the line of trout angling.

Continue southward for another nineteen or twenty miles, cross South Spring creek, Cow Creek, and then pass the Encampment river (sometimes known as Encampment creek) which is a main tributary to the Platte River, and then the town of Encampment is reached, which nestles at the foot hills of the Sierra Madre mountain range. From Rawlins to Encampment there is an approximate rise of 300 feet, this latter village being a little over 7,000 feet above sea level.

West by south is the general direction to be taken on what is known as the Rocky Mountain highway, a winding roadway of good traveled surface from the foot hills to the peak of the Continental Divide. There is very little timber for the first five or six miles, but at a point about seven miles from the town of Encampment is Ellwood Springs, a watering place in the early days, where there is a group of quaken aspen trees and a few willows. From here the country is heavily timbered, with several miles covered

thickly with quaken asps. Shortly after leaving Ellwood Springs the Hayden district of the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve is entered.

As we climb, some pine is noted interspersed with the quaken asps, and a little later the forest becomes almost entirely Engleman spruce, dotted with quakers, wild flowers of a great many varieties, and some wild shrubbery. Several small streams are crossed in the course of the journey, with names known only to the natives, but which contain ice-cold and very refreshing water. While riding in a car, there is never a day on this journey from Encampment on up when the weather is too warm. Most tourists from lower altitudes feel the need of a wrap; some notice a ringing in the ears; others feel a temporary deafness for a few moments; a few become temporarily faint. These physical reactions are not due to any extreme height, but rather to the quickness of the ascent not noticeable ordinarily with the modern motor facilities.

When what is known as "Slaughter's House Draw," is passed, and after a journey of about two miles further is made, the remnants of a ghost mining town is found. This is the top of the world in this section, the Continental Divide, with an altitude of 9,916 feet. This is a rise of approximately 3,000 feet since leaving Encampment, a trip of twelve miles. Naturally here is a stopping point for a breathing spell, for inspection of brakes on the machine, and for a view of the magnificent country.

By walking a few steps on either side of the road the peak may be reached. From this point, owing to the convolutions of the mountainous canyons through which the journey had been made, visions of the farm lands in the Encampment valley are obscure. Several stops en route to this point give better glimpses, bird's-eye fashion, of the hay plotted ranch domains. But to look ahead and down is where greatest interest from this point is gained,

the point that divides the Pacific from the Atlantic; the point which marks the diversion of waters, to the east all waters flow almost directly into the North Platte river, which ultimately empties into the Gulf of Mexico, and ahead of us the little Snake river is the recipient of all water courses the flow of which eventually washes against the concrete of the Boulder dam and on into the Pacific Ocean.

The ghost mining town, originally named Battle Lake, has been shortened to "Battle". A stream flows from out the lower end of Battle Lake which has been christened Battle creek, and the flat-topped mountain which may be seen at the infinity of the canyons through which Battle creek courses, is called Battle Mountain. Legend has it that Battle Mountain received its name as a result of an Indian skirmish in the early days and the other places and objects just mentioned derived their names from the mountain. Battle Lake is historically significant in that the late Thomas A. Edison at this body of water perfected his idea of the filament for the incandescent lamp in 1879. Above the lake is another ghost town, known as Rambler.

At about three-eighths of a mile further, at a comparatively level spot, is a sign on our right, which says "Bridger Peak, four miles; Hanson Ranch, twelve miles." Here a turn is made into the thick of the forest, this is above timber line.

Bridger Peak is a ranger look-out station, occupied as a point of observation only during dry years when there is much danger of forest fires in this area. It is 11,007 feet above sea level.

To the north is Whisky Peak, and the Ferris Mountains, a hundred miles distant. To the right may be seen the Haystack range, the cliff formations of the Black Canyon wherein the Seminole dam is now being constructed, the Medicine Bow range, with Elk Mountain looming up in the fore-ground.

From here may also be seen the summit of the Snowy range, white capped, directly east, and to the south-east, jumbled mountains in the state of Colorado, To the south is a mass of mountains in northern Colorado and to the west may be observed smaller peaks which gradually fade into the plateau plains of the sagebrush desert lands. From this crow's nest of the Sierra Madre mountains may be followed quite readily the course of the North Platte river, through ranch lands, parcels of sagebrush flats, serrated cliff formations of various colors until it is finally lost where its silver thread-like hair line disappears on toward the Black Canyon. The county seat of Rawlins can be seen from this point, and the smoke stacks of the Parco refinery.

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Charles E. Blydenburgh (personal observation).

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Jan 25 '39 THEY'RE TELLING STORIES ON ONE OF COUNTY'S FIRST CITIZENS.

They're telling more stories about one of Carbon County's first citizens--first, at least, in arrival and location in this region. John C. Thompson of the Wyoming Tribune, who has a faculty for digging up interesting historical matter, spins the following yarn in his feature column "In Old Wyoming" concerning the illustrious Jim Baker, who was one of the first white men to establish a home in what is now Carbon county;

Jim Baker, who came to the Wyoming country in 1838, built in 1873 over in the Little Snake River valley the picturesque cabin which now stands in Frontier Park at Cheyenne, and who died in 1898 after sixty years on the frontier, came out of the Medicine Bow mountains in 1866 with three horses loaded with furs he had taken during the proceeding winter. He thought he was through with west and intended to take the money the furs would bring in Denver, and retire to his native state, Illinois. The forty-eight year-old "mountain man" reckoned, however, without his passion for gambling and the through crookedness of gamblers with whom he consorted at Denver and the nearby settlement, Golden. Soon the sizable sum for which he sold the furs had gone into the pockets of the gambling gentry and his vision of a life of ease in Illinois was gone with the wind. This made him right peevish, and he wasn't a pleasant person to be around when he was in a peevish mood. In fact, proximity to him on such occasions might be downright dangerous.

Jim, confronted with the harsh necessity of returning to the peril-infested mountains to gather more skins, brooded upon his evil fortune, decided that among those who had contributed to it most reprehensibly was a gambler who held forth at Golden. Forthwith he



sought out this slippery gent, and without dismounting his Indian pony upbraided him in English, Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Ute, Crow, Shoshone and Spanish selecting from each tongue with a fine discrimination the most approbious epithets of its lexicon. Incensed to the point of infuriation by this polyglot tirade and his inability to phrase the retort discourteous save in inadequate English, and being at the moment, as was his tormentor, destitute of a device with which an explosion of gunpowder might be caused to impart to a leaden pellet a lethal velocity, the gambler, with more courage than discretion, seized upon clods of earth and hurled them at the vituperative victim of his manipulation of the cards.

This childish display of temper was displeasing to Jim; so displeasing in fact, that he felt constrained to do something about it. Loosening his riata, he deftly heeled the prancing dirt slinger, whipped the slackened rope over the projecting ridge pole of a cabin and elevated the squirming corporeality of the object of his disapproval until it was suspended a man's height above the ground. Then, while his trained pony kept the rope ~~taut~~ taut, he gathered brush, built a fire beneath the dangling gambler and smoked him until he pleaded for mercy. None who looked on moved to interfere, Jim's demeanor suggesting that interference might be inimical the health of the interferer. Finally, after a homily on the virtue of holding one's temper and also holding only those cards which chance and chance alone, bestowed upon one engaged in a game for stakes, Jim kicked the fire aside, lowered the half suffocated sharp upon the excessively hot spot where it had been, disengaged his rope and departed, his good-humor fully restored by the divertisement in which he had engaged.

Whether the foregoing is altogether accurate none may say or gainsay 73 years afterward, but the validity of the basical facts is

attested by an old-timer, who avers he had them from his father, who was among those present when the man-smoking occurred. So finally in the scriven word is a fragment of history preserved from that oblivion into which irretrievably has passed so much of the engaging story of the west when it was raw, lost forever because nobody went to the trouble of setting it down.

Rose A. Roybal  
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April 13, 1939

### Events in Carbon County

Name of Event-----	Location-----	Date---
Fairs	Rawlins	Usually Aug.
State Fairs	Douglas	Usually Sept.
Rodeos	Rawlins	Usually with Fair
Rodeos	Saratoga	4th. of July
Annual County Picnic	Elk Mountain	July

Pioneer picnics are held in Slater, Colo., and many Carbon County old-timers go there for this event.

There are many private organizations that have picnics, but they are held just for them.

This<sup>is</sup> all that I could find for Carbon County.

250 words.

Co.-110

## Co.-111.

When Carbon county was originally organized when Wyoming was still a territory, in 1870, its area comprised over one-fifth of the area of the state of Wyoming; this area contained all that part west of the line 107 degrees, 30 minutes west longitude; the western three-fourths of Natrona County; the greater part of Johnson and Sheridan counties and a strip about 18 miles wide across the east side of Big Horn and Washakie counties. At the present time the county contains 5,124,480 acres within its boundaries which are by counties,--Natrona on the north, Sweetwater on the west, Albany on the east and the northern boundary of Colorado on the south.

Prior to its organization, going back to the end of the 18th century, the section which is now Carbon county was part of the territory under the rule of the French government, which later became the "Louisiana Purchase". Following its organization, and subsequently with the entrance of Wyoming to statehood, the boundary lines have been cut down as the result of formation of several other counties in the state; nevertheless it is still one of the largest counties in the state.

## Co.-112-

Much of the general geography of the county was treated under the section entitled "Topography," and since there is so much overlapping in this regard the writer deems it best not to treat more of this particular section at the present; however, with reference to commercial interests more will be given under that topic.

Ray Anderson  
Saratoga, Wyo.

PLATTE VALLEY LYRE.  
A CURIOUS CASE

650 words

DR

CARBON COUNTY VERSUS CARBON COUNTY ROADS.

A curious case has been on trial for months past in Carbon County. the cause in question is one in which the people are plaintiffs, being entitled "The commissioners of Carbon county vs. the roads of Carbon county," It is being tried before the Court of Public Opinion, a tribunal unerring in it's judgments and inflexible in it's decisions, a tribunal from which there is no appeal, and the case, we are sorry to say, according to the law and the evidence, looks very bad for the defendants.

If there is any thing in the world that a county and it's various communities ought to have it is good roads. County roads are public thoroughfares, expressly designed and intended for mutual convenience, and to facilitate mutual communication. Without such avenues of mutual convenience and communication trade is interrupted, travel is arrested, the entire fabric of business and social relations is rudely shaken- the necessities and pleasures of life are alike blocked in operation.

To

To see that county roads are opened at the dictation of necessity, and that such roads are kept in suitable and demanded repair is one of the most important duties of a board of county commissioners, and this important duty has been flagrantly neglected by the present board of county commissioners for Carbon county.

While all the portions of the county are more or less victimized in this respect, the Platte valley has the most crying cause for complaint. Here in the most populous and extensive settlements of Carbon county, the county road system has received no attention whatever.

The section has been left cooly to deal with its roads as best it might, and conflicting and unregulated private interests (and was, and is inevitable) have resulted in bad roads and public confusion. the hand of general government, strong and benificent, is needed, and this hand the county commissioners have failed to put forth.

The Lyre, therefore, demands in the name of its own section of Carbon county as a whole, of the public good and of common justice, that this lame and impotent condition be at once and fully remedied.

We suggest that the county commissioners get a first move on themselves in the Platte valley region. There is enough county road work here to keep the honorable board occupied for some time to come, and to amply signalize any new departure it may feel disposed to make in the direction of activity, efficiency and the duties of its position.

The Saratoga road which crosses Jack Creek is a most loose and demorlized condition. It has never been declared a county road and rejoices in illusive and juggling characteristics. It runs here and there and everywhere. Some times you can find it and some times you can't. The most certain place to look for it is in the Jack Creek bottom, and when you finally succeed in capturing it in this bottom locality you are much more anxious to get rid of it than you were to find it. This road should be declared county property at once and the passage of the Jack Creek bottom, (now a terror to all kinds of travel) be made safe and sure.

The road from Saratoga to the large and rapidly increasing Brush Creek settlement is badly in nneed of two bridges (and good ones) one across Cedar Creek and the other over Brush Creek itself; a.

suitable bridge should be thrown across Spring Creek, a few miles above Saratoga; at the Huston ranch, on a declared county road, Cow Creek bottom is practically impassable and on the same stream further down, on another county road, the county bridge is in an unfinished condition.

As it is in the Platte valley, so it is in a somewhat lesser degree, all over the county. The apparent trouble with our commissioners is that their road duties are more pressing than their inclination. But the road system in Carbon county must receive that full attention which is its right. On this subject the Lyre will not fail to harp until the honorable board of commissioners of Carbon county either definitely refuses to sing at all or sings to the right kind of accompaniment. On this subject the Lyre speaks in no sectional sense or spirit. Its utterances constitute an appeal for the general good. Now is the time to establish these roads—the county is rapidly settling and rights of way will soon be a matter of purchase. It is therefore a fact patent on its face that the necessary county road can be established now at a less cost than at any subsequent period.

*600 words.*

Co.-211

There is, in Carbon county, a good deal relative to the subject of Archaeology yet to be discovered, yet to be explored and examined; at the present time there is very little in this wise which has been placed upon documentary record, especially with reference to remains of the earliest human. Without question this section of the state of Wyoming will yet furnish valuable material for science with regard to early civilization as is indicated by some of the Indian archaeology which quite plainly shows earlier civilization than can be attributed to the Indian bands which roamed this part of the state in the early "sixties."

Co.-212

On the border of Albany and Carbon county, in the section west of the town of Rock River, exist some of the most perfect "rings," remains of Indian villages, of anywhere in the state, it is said. While the majority of these are in Albany county, it is essential to one exploring the dinosaur fields and the petrified forest site north of Medicine Bow, to know just about where these evidences of ancient remains are to be found so that he may map his journey accordingly.

Similar rings, though not so perfect nor quite so clear, are to be found from two to three miles north of the town of Walcott, or about five miles north of a point on the Lincoln Highway which is situated about seven miles east of where the bridge crosses the North Platte river; (at the junction of the road to Saratoga.) Dotted throughout the county are very small rings said to be remnant evidence of Indian tepees; (this interpretation, however, is in dispute.)



Co.-212--

Indian relics, such as weapons (tomahawks, stone hammers, hatchets, spear heads, arrow heads, etc.) may be found or rather have been found in considerable quantities in all sections of the county, and around the Saratoga district along the river cliffs, etc., are the clear remains of Indian graves. In this latter area many weapons have been discovered, and north of Rawlins, about 12 miles on the Yellowstone Highway, many valuable spear and arrow heads have been picked up at a location which was known as Bell Springs. Direct information on this can be obtained by the proprietor of "The Willows", a rest station two miles farther north on the east side of the road.

Around the present site of the Seminoe dam, 38 miles north of Parco, crude stone implements have been gathered.

Northwest of Rawlins about 60 miles, Kleber Hadsell, a Rawlins sheepman, has a sheep headquarters. With his ranch as a center, for a radius of about 20 miles around can be found Indian and ancient evidence of an earlier civilization. One of the most unusual indications of a civilization earlier than frontier Indian times is a calendar about two miles south of the Hadsell cabin. This calendar is composed of round stones which form the figure, and it is in excellent condition. The base is about 10 feet across and from each end a line extends about five feet to where another cross section meets them, this line being about 8 feet across. From here the direction changes sharply (the base is due east and west) and one line of stones continues on a tangent for a length of 75 yards approximately pointing directly to the summer solstice; the other line points to the winter solstice, this latter be-

176

Co.-212-- ing about 25 yards in length. Quite some distance from the line pointing to the summer solstace is a pile of rocks the placement bēing in direct line with the diagonal of the summer solstace; there is some question, however, whether this pile is an originā part of the calendar. That *main* the figure is of Indian origin is unquestionable, states Mr. Hadsell, but it is also quite questionable that recent Indian people are responsible for its construction; it be- speaks more of Aztec intelligence owing to its astronomical exactness.

The writer hopes to later supplement his findings of archaeology within the boundaries of this county. In passing, let it be stated that this calendar near the Hadsell ranch is in Fremont county but very close topographically with Carbon county. Access to this district is usually gained by going north from Wamsutter, (Sweetwater county) *to get as* which is a town the main purpose of which is, a supply station for sheepmen from Carbon county.

-Co.-100

UPPER PLATT RIVER BASIN

[The county of Carbon in the state of Wyoming, noted for its rugged mountain scenery, its recreational hunting and fishing facilities, the coolness of its climate during the summer months, the output of its tremendous coal beds, its oil and gas wells, its mineral deposits, and in the main, for its production of wool, lies in the south-central part of the state with Colorado as its southern boundary.]

S-170

[Regarding its agriculture in the Platte and Little Snake River valleys, there are approximately 72,125 acres of irrigated land according to the 1925 Federal Census,<sup>f</sup> and there has been little change from this figure, except for slight increase in irrigated acreage, since that time. Carbon county is rated first in the state in the value of all live stock; first in sheep; fourth in cattle; third in wild hay and sixth in tame hay production.] It has some of the finest fossil beds in the world and has produced the largest dinosaur remains, which specimen is in the Smithsonian Institute.

[Carbon county, the second largest in size in the state, having 8029 square miles (5,124,480 acres); the sixth in population; is also given credit for containing the greatest number of incorporated towns, there being ten of these, namely- Rawlins, county seat; Parco, Hanna, Saratoga,

\* Now about 125,000 - Wyo. Agriculture Statistics-1935

Encampment, Riverside, Elk Mountain, Elmo, Dixon and Baggs.\*

Co.-101

*Carbon*

Carbon is the Latin and chemical name for coal, and was given to the county owing to the immense deposits of coal beds.

Co.-102

Medicine Bow, a town of Wyoming as well as a river, was taken from the Medicine Bow mountains where, as tradition has it, the northern Indian tribes repaired yearly to procure ash timber for their bows; the timber was considered excellent; anything excellent to the Indians was considered "good medicine;" thus, the name.

Co.-103

Sierra Madre, a range of mountains, is of Spanish origin, Sierra meaning range as applied to mountains, and Madre meaning mother; thus, translated, Mother Range.

FORMER COUNTY ASSESSOR

\* Authority- W. F. Daley, Rawlins Republican, Rawlins, Wyo.

*checked By Daley for accuracy*

Books

1. - Wyoming Agricultural Statistics  
Number Nine--1932  
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U. S. Dept. Agriculture and  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
and  
Wyp. Dept. Agriculture, Cheyenne, Wyo.
2. Wyoming Statistics, 10th issue, 1935  
compiled by  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, U. S. D. A.  
and  
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3. Wyoming State History, Bartlett, I. S.  
Vol. I.  
Published by S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago,  
1918----especially pages 43 & 44.

Persons

1. Rev. H. K. Fulton, Rawlins, Wyo.
2. S. S. Sharp, Engineer, Saratoga, Wyo.

Maps.

1. Geological Map of Wyoming; owned by Rev. H. K. Fulton.
2. Contour map of Carbon County; owned by S. S. Sharp.

Co.-151

Carbon county is rich in fossil remains, the fossil beds in this territory representing about a third of those most prized in the state; the main beds or one might say "fossil fields" of the county are in the hills north of Medicine Bow, approximately 40 miles. In this (1) district have been found the bones of dinosaurs, brontosaurus, and the like and the so-called dinosaur grave-yards here (2) considered one of the best in the world. Smithsonian Institute now contains the reproduction of the largest dinosaur skeleton found, which was discovered in this dinosaur grave-yard north of Medicine Bow.

In this district may also be seen a section of petrified forest, one tree in particular, about 50 feet long, lying on its side, can be witnessed. The elements and water-erosion have hollowed out the trunk and small streams trickle through it at certain times of the year.

In the districts north, north east and north west of Rawlins, as well as south west of the county seat, may be found cephalopods and gastropods, sea-fish, shells, ferns, etc., since this county as well as the rest of the state was at one time entirely glacial, but here, it seems, erosion by the winds and upheaval have brought forth these fossil remains more so than in most sections of the state. Further and more complete information upon the dinosaur grave-yard and the surrounding fossil remains has not been garnered at the time of this writing.

The county of Carbon might properly be called a basin almost entirely surrounded by mountains and mountain ranges, with the exception of one spot about 20 miles north-east of Rawlins, the Haystack Mountains, which stick up in the basin like an ant hill in an almost level spot, though, with the exception of the huge rises of mountains at its outer edges, the country might generally be said to be made of rolling and flat plains.

The mean elevation of Carbon county is approximately 6800 feet, with Rawlins, the county seat, at 6750 at the Union Pacific depot. Mountain ranges reach as high as 12,000 feet and over, though the average for ranges and peaks is about 10,000 ft.

The basic topographically feature of the county perhaps rests in the Continental Divide which first cuts the county from the west at Creston, about 23 miles west of Rawlins where the elevation is 7200 ft. and continues through the county in a general south-easterly direction until it reaches its peak in the county at the old historic town-site of Battle, on the Rocky-Mountain Highway where the elevation is 9866. It then continues on into Colorado, about 12 miles, south from the old town of Battle.

The Continental Divide in this county separates two main river basins, the Platte basin on the east, the waters of which reach the Gulf of Mexico, and the Little Snake river on the west whose water eventually reaches the Pacific Ocean through the Colorado River.

The North Platte river bisects the county, running from south to north boundaries, winding through the county 170 miles to cover a straight line distance of 100 miles. The Medicine Bow river enters the county from the east and flows into the platte in the north central part. The Platte river is fed by the Encampment river from the south west, this latter stream joining the Platte just below the town of Encampment at what is about the last of the foot hills of the Sierra Madre Range of Mountains in the Medicine Bow National Forest. 17

The Little Snake River is a partial boundary of Carbon county on the south; it winds along the state line for a distance of about 35 miles. Just below the town of Baggs the altitude at which the river is flowing is 6200 ft.

The Platte river, from the time it enters the county until the time it reaches the Pathfinder Dam, at the northern end of the county, drops or rather falls a total of 1650 ft, the highest point on the river at the Colorado line being 7500 feet, and the lowest point at the Pathfinder dam, being 5850 feet. Four miles from the dam it crosses the county line.

Mountains in the northwest end of the county include Whisky Peak (in the Green Mountains) and the Ferris Mountain range (average altitude extreme, 10,000;) in the northern part of the county, the Seminoe and the Freeze-out mountains, between which flows the Platte river; the average extreme height of the Seminoe mts. is 9200 while the Freeze-outs reach heights well over 10,000 ft.



In the western end of the county south of the Freeze-out Mountains is the Medicine Bow river basin and south of this there commences the Medicine Bow and the Snowy Range of Mountains where the heights are over 12,000 ft. Medicine Bow Peak, at a point called "Look Out", which is on the line of Carbon and Albany County is 12,005 ft.

Swinging around to the south eastern end of the county the next highest peak is Elk Mountain (outside the forest reserve) with a height of 11,162 ft. Then comes Bridger Peak, 11,007 ft. situated in about the center of the Sierra Madre Range (in the county) in what used to be the Hayden National Forest, now an undesignated part of the Medicine Bow National Forest. *g*

The Snake River then takes care of the county boundary for about 35 miles; the lower western end is plateau prairie and desert, broken at Creston by the Continental Divide. *id*

Co.-130-

Co.-131- Seasonal variations in the state approximate the seasonal variations in the county of Carbon with the exceptions due to the Continental Divide and altitude. With the mean elevation of the county as a whole said to be 6799 ft., and with the Pacific coast winds effecting the climatic conditions the average temperature will range from 41 to 42 degrees, the extreme in summer being about 100 (rare) above zero and in the winter (some winters 40 degrees below zero.) — *Herbert*

Co.-130-

Co.-131-

The last three to four years have been exceptions in this county, as they seemed to be in different parts of other places throughout the world. The winters have been more mild and the drouth conditions which prevailed so universally were felt in this county also. However, this last winter so far (1935-1936 to date, Feb. 1.) has been more normal or more "up to par" as the natives here say, with a mean precipitation of about 10 inches to date, considering the fractional yearly time. The normal precipitation in the county is 12.24 inches.

Co.-130  
Co.-133-

Precipitation here consists of thunder storms in the summer months and snows in the winter with occasional drizzly rains in the fall and spring. The winters as a whole ordinarily occupy about five months, with late and short springs; summer ranging from about June 1 to Sept. 15, to be followed by calm, fairly warm sunny days of Indian Summer. Precipitation is fairly well distributed throughout the year with the exception of the Red Desert (mostly in Sweet water county but topographically effecting the general terraine of this county) where sometimes little may occur for from two to three months during the summer. The mountains and valleys in the summer time generally get a fair percentage of rainfall. The wind blows a good deal in the late fall, winter and spring with an average of about 12 miles an hour.

Co.-130

Co.--132. The average date for the last killing frost in the spring is June 9, while the average date for the first killing frost in the fall is Sept. 10. One may expect as a rule to not plant crops (which will be effect greatly by the frost) so that they will be up before June 1 unless very well protected.

*ed*  
*not*

CHECKED FOR ACCURACY

NAME Ross Alcorn  
TITLE Publisher  
PLACE Rawlins, Wyo

Ray Anderson  
Saratoga, Wyo.

PLATTE VALLEY LYNCH  
A CURIOUS CASE

CARBON COUNTY VERSUS CARBON COUNTY ROADS.

A curious case has been on trial for months past in Carbon County. the cause in question is one in which the people are plaintiffs, being entitled "The commissioners of Carbon county vs. the roads of Carbon county." It is being tried before the Court of Public Opinion, a tribunal unerring in it's judgments and inflexible in it's decisions, a tribunal from which there is no appeal, and the case, we are sorry to say, according to the law and the evidence, looks very bad for the defendants.

If there is any thing in the world that a county and it's various communities ought to have it is good roads. County roads are public thoroughfares, expressly designed and intended for mutual convenience, and to facilitate mutual communication. Without such avenues of mutual convenience and communication trade is interrupted, travel is arrested, the entire fabric of business and social relations is rudely shaken- the necessities and pleasures of life are alike blocked in operation.

To see that county roads are opened at the dictation of necessity, and that such roads are kept in suitable and demanded repair is one of the most important duties of a board of county commissioners, and this important duty has been flagrantly neglected by the present board of county commissioners for Carbon county.

While all the portions of the county are more or less victimized in this respect, the Platte valley has the most crying cause for complaint. Here in the most populous and extensive settlements of Carbon county, the county road system has received no attention whatever.

The section has been left solely to deal with its roads as best it might, and conflicting and unregulated private interests (and was, and is inevitable) have resulted in bad roads and public confusion. The hand of general government, strong and beneficent, is needed, and this hand the county commissioners have failed to put forth.

The Lyre, therefore, demands in the name of its own section of Carbon county as a whole, of the public good and of common justice, that this lame and impotent condition be at once and fully remedied.

We suggest that the county commissioners get a first move on themselves in the Platte valley region. There is enough county road work here to keep the honorable board occupied for some time to come, and to amply signalize any new departure it may feel disposed to make in the direction of activity, efficiency and the duties of its position.

The Saratoga road which crosses Jack Creek is a most loose and demoralized condition. It has never been declared a county road and rejoices in illusive and juggling characteristics. It runs here and there and everywhere. Some times you can find it and some times you can't. The most certain place to look for it is in the Jack Creek bottom, and when you finally succeed in capturing it in this bottom locality you are much more anxious to get rid of it than you were to find it. This road should be declared county property at once and the passage of the Jack Creek bottom, (now a terror to all kinds of travel) be made safe and sure.

The road from Saratoga to the large and rapidly increasing Brush Creek settlement is badly in need of two bridges (and good ones) one across Little Creek and the other over Brush Creek itself; a

suitable bridge should be thrown across Spring Creek, a few miles above Saratoga; at the Haston ranch, on a declared county road, Cow Creek bottom is practically impassable and on the same stream further down, on another county road, the county bridge is in an unfinished condition.

As it is in the Platte valley, so it is in a somewhat lesser degree, all over the county. The apparent trouble with our commissioners is that their road duties are more pressing than their inclination. But the road system in Carbon county must receive that full attention which is its right. On this subject the Lyre will not fail to harp until the honorable board of commissioners of Carbon county either definitely refuses to sing at all or sings to the right kind of accompaniment. On this subject the Lyre speaks in no sectional sense or spirit. Its utterances constitute an appeal for the general good. Now is the time to establish these roads-- the county is rapidly settling and rights of way will soon be a matter of purchase. It is therefore a fact patent on its face that the necessary county road can be established now at a less cost than at any subsequent period.

WKA  
1423  
Rose A. Roybal  
123 W. Center St.  
Rawlins, Wyoming  
August 11, 1939

## Early History and Reminiscences

The founding and Incidents of the  
Growth of Rawlins and Car-  
bon County.

### Building of the Union Pacific

Over the Continental Divide in the Year 1868

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The Indians were Troublesome, and the Pioneers had Many Exciting  
Enounters with Them Before they were Subdued. Several of the  
First Settlers and Still Living in the Twon-Mrs. Mae Franklins the  
First child Born here.

---

The building of the Union Pacifif up the eastern slope of the  
Continental Divide, during the summer of 1868, marked the first per-  
manent settlement on the site of what is now the most properous and  
active commercial center in Wyoming.

Early inthe spring of 1868, the graders reached this point and  
established their camp at the old springs a half mile west of town  
which at that time flowed a large volume of water. These springs  
were called Rawlings' Springs, after a early time hunter and trapper  
in this section. The postoffice whichwas established during the  
summer and the railroad station that was located when the tracklayers  
reached this point in July, 1868 also appropriated the name. Sub-  
sequently the name of the station was chaged to Rawlins, in honor of  
General John A. Rawlins, ~~the~~ then secretaty of war.

### Rawlins Made a Division Point.

In August of the same year it was announced that Rawlins would  
be made a division point. Large quantities of material for the  
depot building, shops and hotel began to arrive.

Men were employed to get out rock for foundation and the shops. Business houses from Benton and other points were moved to the new town, and Rawlins became a lively, bustling hive in industry. The new-comers refused to purchase lots, having been felled too often, some having paid as much as a thousand dollars for lots at Benton. They pitched their tents and erected their temporary shacks along the creek on the south side of the track.

Smith and Wills were given a contract to cut fifty thousand cords of wood. Nearly all the locomotives then in the Union Pacific service being wood burners. Hundreds of men were employed to chop cord wood. The hills north of town were stripped of cedars and all the small canyons south for twenty miles which would afford a few cords of quaking aspen were occupied by woodchoppers. Wert P. Noble now a well known business man of Lander and Salt Lake, was book-keeper for the contractors. Only a small portion of the wood was ever delivered, as the mining of coal at Carbon and Rock Springs furnished the railroad company with all necessary fuel.

#### Some of the Pioneers.

Among the early settlers who have resided here since 1868, are P.L. Smith and wife, John F. Foote and wife, Mrs. L. Hays, and Frank Blake, and latter having served as foreman of the car repair shop during his long residence here.

Of the '69ers left are: Ex-Mayor I. C. Miller, Hon. J.P. Keller, who is now serving as quartermaster's agent for the department of the Platte, Jno. C. Friend, and Mrs. Mae Franklin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Foote, the first white child born in the town.

The early part of the winter of 1868 was an open one and track laying progressed rapidly, passing Bryan, 13 miles west of what is now the town of Green, before Spring. Bitter Creek, 75 miles west of Rawlins, was made another freight division point, but has since been



abandoned. Mr. Timothy O. Baily, lately deceased, was the first master mechanic at that point.

As in all new western towns there were several shooting scrapes in Rawlins during the winter of '68-9, but no one was ever arrested or tried for murder. The victims were generally quietly buried on the hill just south of the Snake River road near the springs.

Heavy snows fell in February and March, 1869. Something like a thousand men were employed between Bitter Creek and this point to keep the track open. The railroad company had no snow plows that were of any use, the cuts were narrow and the sand and snow had to be shoveled out to keep the line open.

The railroad hotel was opened early in the spring of 1869 by Swain and Co., who failed in less than a year. Mr. Swain was one of the members of the first board of county commissioners.

Indians were more or less troublesome. In the fall of 1868 Lieuts. Young and Spence followed up a party which had made a raid on the government stock at Fort Steele and overtook them at what is now known as Young's pass, in the Ferris range, where they had a sharp engagement lasting several hours. They recaptured some of the government stock, the Indians, however, managing to get away with the larger portion. Several soldiers were slightly wounded.

#### First Building North of the Track.

In the spring of 1869 H. C. Hall and Co., erected the building now known as the Brunswick House. It was located on the lot where the France stone block now stands, and was the first building erected by a business firm on the north side of the track. The business houses in town at that time were: H. C. Hall and Co., general merchandise and liquors; Jerry Sheegan, general merchandise and liquors. Sheegan occupied the building where Mayor's saloon is now located.

Hunt and Smith, meat market and coal; J. Dyer, stationery, tobacco and cigars. Mr. Dyer was also the first postmaster. His place of business was a small frame building just south of the track and in front of Magor's store. Daxon Bros., liquors, Wm. Baker, manager; M. T. Lockridge, saloon, billiards and barber shop; Donnelly and Brennan, saloon; Larry Hays, restaurant; Chas. Good, shoemaker; John O'Brien, saloon and Fenian headquarters.

Mr. E. Hunt of the firm of Smith & Hunt, conceived the idea that there were millions in raising hogs and fattening them upon game. He sent east for several carloads of hogs, hired hunters and started out to range them about the country, similar to the way sheep are now handled. Antelope, deer and elk were plentiful so he found no difficulty in securing hog food. The enterprise was, however, not a success and was abandoned after a couple of years.

#### First School and Church.

The first school was opened in the fall of 1869 in a little building just south of the U.P. copper shop, a Miss Goodrich being the teacher. Johnny two scholars now residing here that we can call to mind that attended Rawlin's first school.

The first church erected was the Morris Presbyterian which stood upon the ground the handsome stone ~~edifice~~ edifice now occupies. It was erected during the winter of 1869 and dedicated in March 1870 by Rev. Sheldon Jackson.

#### First Term of Court.

The first term of court held in this county was in June, 1870, in allarge of Magor's warehouse, Justice J. W. tent that stood in the street just west Kingman presiding; Smith, Foote, sheriff; Chas. E. Wilson, prosecuting attorney, and Frank B. Edmunds, clerk, Frank by the way, was the "Poobah" of the county as he also held the office of county clerk, treasurer, probate judge, justice of the peace,

United States court commissioner and deputy United States revenue assessor. No important cases were ever tried.

#### The Indian Raid in '70.

During the summer of '70, Capt. Thls. B. Dewees' company of the second cavalry were stationed here. They were camped just west of town about where Magor's blacksmith shop now stands. Early in April 1870 a party of a half dozen Indians made a raid around by the slaughter pens and up through the botton on the other side of the creek, shot into John Foote's house near the springs and attempted to drive off Walter Towse's cows. Towse then lived where the Starzell mansion stands. Walter mounted his old gray horse and started through the cut, recaptured his cows and secceeded in killing one of the Indians, which he brought down and threw on the depot platform. Every man, woman and child went to see the that Indian during the afternoon. Towse afterward schlped him, threw the body upon a coal car and sent it down to the post surgeon at Fort Steele.

Along in the summer Sam Perkins and several others came in one Sunday saying they had been attacked by Indians near Bull canyon. Lieut. Young with the soldiers and several citizens started out after the Indians. They were though to be Utes for this reason. There were numbrous alarms during the season but forftunately no whites were killed.

#### Organization of Carbon County.

Carbon County was segregated from Larmie by the legislature during the session of the winter of 1869 and organized as a separate county. Wm. M. Masi made the first assessment of the county in 1870. In September the first county election was held. The campaign was a hot one. Judge Wm. Jones was the Republican candidate for delegate to Congress and Stephen F. Nuckols the Democratic candidate. The

Democratic county ticket with the exception of one commissioner was elected, as follows: Peter Lemon, sheriff; E. P. Martin, treasurer, and probate judge; J. P. Keller, clerk; Frank Blake, M. Mooney and Chas. G. Bingham, (Republican) county prosecuting attorney; Robt. W. Baxter, superintendent of schools. The new board of commissioners organized by the election of Frank Blake chairman.

#### Second Term of Court.

Early in the winter of 1870 another term of court was held. Judge J. W. Kingman again presiding. Lockeridge's billiard hall was secured, the bar and billiard tables being moved out. The building consisted of two rooms, between which there was a single board partition, with cracks between the board through which you could have run your fingers if a sheet of thin muslin had not been tacked over the partition. This too prevented a person from looking thru and seeing what was going on in the next room. Early in the term a jury was secured in a felony case, wherein the defendant was charged with assaulting the prosecuting witness, hitting him over the head with a revolver and threatening to kill him. About noon the case was given to the jury and they retired to their room. Several ballots were taken and the case fully argued, without being able to arrive at a conclusion, the jury being nearly equally divided as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant. There were several card tables in the jury room, in the drawers of which were cards and checks. Uncle Bobby Reid, an honest-hearted, sturdy old Scotchman was the foreman of the jury and first to discover the cards. Being very fond of the game of cards known as "Old Sledge" he exclaimed; "Come, boys, bide a bit wid the voting; we will have a game of cards." The judge's chair set close to the partition between the court and jury rooms, which enabled him to hear everything that was said in the jury room. Card playing went on continuously during the afternoon with an occasional interrup-

tion when a ballot was taken-with Uncle Bobby's usual objection: "Bide a wee tell the games' out. In his broad Scotch accent he would invariably claim "High, low, jock,, and "Sammy Parkins, de'il take ye, ye stole the jock, gi'e me low." There was but little buiness in the court room that afternoon. The judge, however, did not leave his seat. About half past six in the evening the sheriff was ordered to bring in the jury. They filed into the court room and answered to their names, when the judge without saking them if they had agreed, turned to Hon L. D. Pease, of Laramie, the clerk, saying: "Mr. Clerk, enter up a fine of two dollars each against this jury for trying to arrive at a verdict by playing cards. Mr. Sheriff they will stand committed until the fine is paid. This court stands adjourned until ten o'clock towmoorrwo morning." He then clapped on his hat and was out of the court room in three strides. (The writer was one of the victims.) The case was continued and subsequently dismissed.

A man named Kelly was tried at this term charged with murdering a man at Benton a couple of years before. Tom Street, of Cheyenne, assisted in the prosecution. W. H. Miller, W. R. Steele and W.W. Corlett, of Cheyenne, were for the defense. Kelly was acquitted.

The building on the south side of the track known as the old court house was built in the fall of '70 by John Doty who opened it up as a saloon and billiard room. The next summer it was purchased by the county sommissioners for a court house.

#### Discovery of Seminoe,

Early in the spring of 1871 Lieut. R. H. Young of Fort Steel, had anassay made of a piece of galena ore which a couple of prospectors had given him soem time before. It was known that the specimens came fromthe Ferris range of mountains. The returnes from the assay was a great surprise to everyone, showing over 4,000 ounces

per ton in silver and a good percentage in lead. There was great excitement at Fort Steele and this place over the discovery. It was, however, dangerous on account of Indians for small parties to go out to prospect for the new Eldorado. A military expedition was organized at Fort Steele consisting of two troupes of cavalry under Capt. Thos. J. M. Thayer of Nebraska, subsequently governor of Wyoming territory, and later governor of Nebraska, Frank and Boney Ernest. Several Nebraska and upper Platte people accompanied the expedition.

By John C. Friend  
From the Republican  
June 9, 1927

Rose A. Roybal  
123 W. Center St.  
Rawlins, Wyo.  
Sept. 2, 1938

294 Words

### "Carbon County"

Carbon County, which contains 5,124,480 acres within its boundaries, was organized in 1870. Of this acreage 1,790,887 acres are privately owned, over 600,000 acres are within the forest reserve and nearly 2,000,000 acres are opened to homestead entry.

In 1925 the Federal Census credited Carbon County with 527 farms containing 72,125 acres of irrigated land. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics placed the County first in the value of all live stock, first in sheep, fourth in cattle, third in wild hay and sixth in tame hay production.

In 1921, 9,000 turkeys were produced in the state valued at \$25,000. Six years later, 181,000 turkeys were sold valued <sup>at</sup> \$943,000.

Carbon County leads others as the greatest sheep center in the state, is first in valuation of coal lands, first in the production of natural gas, and third in the production of oil.

The area of Carbon County is 8,029 square miles. The altitude varies from 5,000 to 12,000 feet due to mountain ranges, rolling plains, and valleys. In the northern part of <sup>the</sup> county are the Ferris and Seminoe mountains, northeast is Shirley Basin, southeast are the Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre range and between flows the Platte River.

Next in importance to ~~the~~ livestock ~~interest~~ <sup>100</sup> comes the mining industry. The name "Carbon" was was given to the county <sup>because</sup> ~~on account~~ of its immense coal beds. The county is also rich in oil, gas, copper, gold, and iron deposits.

The Sazatoga Hot Springs, with a temperature of 135 degrees Fahrenheit, are located in the Platte Valley. These springs contain sulphur, salines and calcorious salts.

Development has just been started in Carbon County but within the next few years it will gain a still greater lead and will be the most prosperous county in the state.

Sixth Annual Carbon County Rodeo.  
Aug. 1-2, 1927



Wyoming

Chas. E. Blydenburgh, Jr. (Carbon Co)  
Approx 750 words

### SCENIC POINTS IN CARBON COUNTY

After leaving Bridger Peak return on the four-mile road to the main mountain highway and continue in the general direction west by south. About two and one-half miles from the top of the Continental Divide the road branches down into the ghost town of Rambler. This road, quite steep and rather rough, is on the south of the highway, and is about one-half mile to the bottom where the remnants of the first buildings are reached. From Rambler it is about three quarters of a mile to Battle Lake, though usually this section of road is not passable by motor.

The descent is constant, although sometimes seeming to go up hill. Every few miles, we cross roaring mountain cataracts which feed Battle creek. There is Smith creek, Haskins creek, Lost creek and Haggarty creek. Just before reaching the ghost remnants of the way station which was known as "Copperton," on the north side of the road lies a huge pile of rock resting below known as quartzite peak. The peak resembles an immense ore dump. A little further can be seen the faint remnants of Copperton, on our left. From this point on, for ten or fifteen miles, a traveler passes through a mountain lane of quaking aspen, which gives very little view of distant horizons. Five miles from Copperton is the Sandstone Ranger station, which sits back from the road, on the north side, a short distance, and can be seen from the highway. Beyond this station a fork in the road is reached which leads in a northerly direction. This road takes one back to Rawlins by another route. However, before returning to Rawlins, a visit should be made to the town of Slater, Colorado, which rests on the Wyoming-Colorado boundary line, and enroute one may gain a wide view of the jumbled mass of mountains in this section of northern Colorado.

## Scenic Points in Carbon County

At a point three miles from the turn-off to Rawlins on the way to Slater, a clearing in the lane of timber is reached, where one may view Sugar Loaf, Bears Bar, Hahns Peak and many more Northern Colorado mountains, while in the immediate perspective one may see Battle Mountain and the winding ribbon of Battle Creek, finding its way through re-barned ranches and greenmatted canyons. This clearing point of observation, while not very high, and while it has no special name, is considered one of the finest spots for splendid views in Carbon County.

The return road takes us through more "quaker" lanes, with occasional openings where early in the season, late June, or the first of July, we glimpse masses of gold and purple caused by Larkspur and yellow daisies and some golden rod. Cross the Little and Big Sandstone creeks which are about six miles apart and note while crossing the bridge, at the Big Sandstone creek, the red formation on either side of the road. This is red sandstone in which are mercury deposits, although not of sufficient quantity for commercial production. Leaving the forest reserve, a new panorama of country is presented, one of meadow-lands, and the road dips into steep ravine-like formations, at the bottom of which are small streams, some of which abound with trout. Finally the top of Middlewood Hill is reached from where a good view of the territory to the north can be observed. Thirty-three miles from the top of Middlewood Hill lies Rawlins. This trip presents various views, all along the way, that are worth while to tourists, and, if one is traveling in the fall of the year, the color displays of the quaking aspen, pine, fir, spruce and mountain and especially between the turn-off near the ranger station and the area near quartzite peak are not to be missed.

## Scenic Points in Carbon County

Snowy range, "Old Baldy", is the highest peak in the county, being 12,005 feet in altitude, and is located on the county lines of Albany and Carbon. The drive to this summit and the views obtained therefrom are said to be the finest in the county. Follow the road from Rawlins to Saratoga. Just before crossing the Platte River bridge at the entrance to Saratoga turn to the left and go by The CCC barracks, taking the road leading to the south-east and heading for Medicine Bow Lodge. Information, by signs and inquiry as to the proper course may be easily obtained at Saratoga. Travel for approximately seventeen miles before reaching the boundary line of the Forest Reserve in this section of the Medicine Bow Lodge is located, a summer resort for fishing, sightseeing and camping, and event entertainment. At the Lodge, cross Barrett creek and three miles from here start to climb. At a point twelve miles distant the nearest spot to the summit of Snowy Range that can be traveled by motor is reached, at which place a view of Silver Lake may be obtained. Continue to Albany county for four miles where Lake Marie is reached. The road is of good graveled surface, and great many motorists take this trip in the summer months. The district is full of lakes, some of which may be visited within close distance of the road and others must be reached only by foot or horseback. This trip is a good side detour to take between Rawlins and Laramie.

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### Bibliography:

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Saratoga, Wyo.

SARATOGA SUN  
June 29, 1939.

400 words  
Carbon B.

### SEEING THE ROCKIES WITHOUR LOSS OT TIME.

Trevelers through Saratoga this week, including several family parties from Michigan ans Wisconsin enrout to the San francisco World's Fair, were vociferous in their praise of the Snowy Range as a most beautiful and interesting side trip which added nothing to thair milage and took but little of their time in traveling from Cheyenne to Salt Lake City. They desired to make the trip across the mountains, but had hesitated for fear it would cost them a day's valuable time from their brief vacation. When they found they could devote a few hours to seeing the beautiful timbered and lake regions of the Snowy Range and still be back on the Lincoln Highway in time to make Salt Lake City for the night stop, they were immensely pleased, all declared the trip over the range had taken them brough one of the finest mountain eares they had ever visited. After listening to these visitors, we find ourselves in full agreement with Gus Fleischli, automobile distributor of Cheyenne, who is quoted in the following editorial from the Wyoming Tribune;

"With radio and other instrumentalites of publicity Colorado is appealing to exposition vacationists to follow U.S. Highway 40 because it traverses charming mountain regions and the treveler without pausing may spend a full day crossing the mountains.

"Gus Fleishli, Cheyenne automoblie distributor, advances the idea that the diversion of travel from Highway 30 across Wyoming to Highway 40 across Colorado, which is the objective ogo the Colorado publicity campaign, may be in a large measure checkmated by the appeal to hurrying travelers, who neverthe less are interested in scenic beauty, in the fact that in this state the Rockies at a point of unsurpassed beauty and grandeur may be crossed in two and one-half hours, by a detour from Highway 30

through the Snowy Range.

"We should inform exposition bound and other motorists that they do not have to wind along mountain roads all day to see the Rockies," he said "but that by detouring between Laramie and Walcott via Centennial and Saratoga they may get their fill of mountain scenery in two and one-half hours with an actual saving of distance and no loss of time. The average transcontinental or other long distance traveler is as interested in the time element as in the scenic element. If we inform him that he can travel in mountain scenery without sacrifice of time he will not be interested in spending a whole day on mountain roads. We should capitalize the slogan—See the Rockies in Two and One-Half Hours."

"Mr. Fleishli appears to have something there."

SARATOGA SUN  
June 29, 1899.

There will be a grand phonograph concert given in the room under the Masonic Hall July 4. Twenty-five selections will be played, consisting of late popular songs. There will also be several wonderful church numbers. A moving picture machine will also be exhibited. The pictures will be life-size and life-like.

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Newt Rankin arrived Saturday night with a new coach for the Rawlins Saratoga stage line. The line is now equipped with Concord coaches and good horses, and a regular time is being maintained.

Fay Anderson,  
Saratoga, Wyo.

Dec., 16, 1940

INDUSTRIES IN THE SARATOGA AND ENCAMPMENT VALLEY.

1 FOX FARMING. One small fox farm owned and operated by the Harden Brothers.

2 POULTRY FARM. Owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell. This farm is located about three miles south of Saratoga. The modern and scientific battery system is used.

3 CATTLE, SHEEP AND LIVESTOCK RAISING.

4 FARMING. Raising wheat, oats, barley etc, main crop being native and alfalfa hay.

5 DUDE RANCHING AND SUMMER RESORTS. The famous A-A being the largest and most popular.

6 TRUCKING. There are four lines, Shaw's, Priquett's, O'Keefe's and Anderson's.

7 CONTRACTING AND BUILDING.

8 HUNTING AND TRAPPING. Extensively carried on during winter, main furs taken being coyote, musk-rat, mink, beaver and skunk.

9 SARATOGA BOTTLING WORKS. Manufacturers bottled drinks, beverages, using natural mineral water for soft drink base.

10 MINING. Especially coal and placer gold mining.

11 FEDERAL FISH HATCHERIES.

LUMBER INDUSTRY. Main mill and drying kiln in town, several portable mills out, manufacture ties, mining props, native lumber, etc.

Title: Carbon Co.  
Carbon County Government.

Source:

Wyoming Compiled Statutes, 1931;  
Hus Larson, Gene McCarthey and  
Frank Schilt; County Commissioners  
Carbon County.

Worker: Blydenburgh, Chas. E. Jr.

Date: —

Words: 270

# THEY'RE TELLING STORIES ON ONE OF COUNTY'S FIRST CITIZENS.

They're telling more stories about one of Carbon County's first citizens--first, at least, in arrival and location in this region. John C. Thompson of the Wyoming Tribune, who has a faculty for digging up interesting historical matter, spins the following yarn in his feature column "In Old Wyoming" concerning the illustrious Jim Baker, who was one of the first white men to establish a home in what is now Carbon county;

Jim Baker, who came to the Wyoming country in 1838, built in 1873 over in the Little Snake River valley the picturesque cabin which now stands in Frontier Park at Cheyenne, and who died in 1898 after sixty years on the frontier, came out of the Medicine Bow mountains in 1866 with three horses loaded with furs he had taken during the proceeding winter. He thought he was through with west and intended to take the money the furs would bring in Denver, and retire to his native state, Illinois. The forty-eight year-old "mountain man" reckoned, however, without his passion for gambling and the through crookedness of gamblers with whom he consorted at Denver and the nearby settlement, Golden. Soon the sizable sum for which he sold the furs had gone into the pockets of the gambling gentry and his vision of a life of ease in Illinois was gone with the wind. This made him right peevish, and he wasn't a pleasant person to be around when he was in a peevish mood. In fact, proximity to him on such occasions might be downright dangerous.

Jim, confronted with the harsh necessity of returning to the peril-infested mountains to gather more skins, brooded upon his evil fortune, decided that among those who had contributed to it most reprehensibly was a gambler who held forth at Golden. Forthwith he



sought out this slippery gent, and without dismounting his Indian pony upbraided him in English, Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Ute, Crow, Shoshone and Spanish selecting from each tongue with a fine discrimination the most approbious epithets of its lexicon. Incensed to the point of infuriation by this polyglot tirade and his inability to phrase the retort discourteous save in inadequate English, and being at the moment, as was his tormentor, destitute of a device with which an explosion of gunpowder might be caused to impart to a leaden pellet a lethal velocity, the gambler, with more courage than discretion, seized upon clods of earth and hurled them at the vituperative victim of his manipulation of the cards.

This childish display of temper was displeasing to Jim; so displeasing in fact, that he felt constrained to do something about it. Loosening his riata, he deftly heeled the prancing dirt slinger, whipped the slackened rope over the projecting ridge pole of a cabin and elevated the squirming corporeality of the object of his disapproval until it was suspended a man's height above the ground. Then, while his trained pony kept the rope ~~taut~~ taut, he gathered brush, built a fire beneath the dangling gambler and smoked him until he pleaded for mercy. None who looked on moved to interfere, Jim's demeanor suggesting that interference might be inimical the health of the interferer. Finally, after a homily on the virtue of holding one's temper and also holding only those cards which chance and chance alone, bestowed upon one engaged in a game for stakes, Jim kicked the fire aside, lowered the half suffocated sharp upon the excessively hot spot where it had been, disengaged his rope and departed, his good-humor fully restored by the divertisement in which he had engaged.

Whether the foregoing is altogether accurate none may say or gainsay 73 years afterward, but the validity of the basical facts is

attested by an old-timer, who avers he had them from his father, who was among those present when the man-smoking occurred. So finally in the scribbled word is a fragment of history preserved from that oblivion into which irretrievably has passed so much of the engaging story of the west when it was raw, lost forever because nobody went to the trouble of setting it down.